

***Remarks***

Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of this application.

Reconsideration of this application is now respectfully requested in view of the amendments above and the following remarks.

Claims 1-58 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1, 46, and 54 being the independent claims. Claims 54-58 were previously withdrawn.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter found at Page 10 of the Office Action. While this indicates that both Claim 42 and Claim 43 contain allowable subject matter, given the rejection of Claim 42 at Pages 9-10, it is presumed that only Claim 43 was intended. In any event, Applicants opt not to rewrite Claim 43 at this time.

At Page 2, the Office Action objects to Claims 31 and 32 based on a typographical error in Claim 31. Applicants also noted a similar error in Claim 33. These errors have now been corrected, and Applicants request withdrawal of this objection.

At Page 2, the Office Action also objects to Claim 40 and 41. This objection is respectfully traversed. The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences has held that these types of claims are acceptable and definite. See, e.g., Ex parte Porter, 25 USPQ2d 1144 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1992); M.P.E.P. § 2173.05(f). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Also at Page 2, the Office Action rejects Claims 3-13, 50, and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter (specifically, mental processes and abstract ideas). These rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

With regard to Claims 50 and 53, it is noted that each of these claims is directed to a system. In particular, each claims cites further limitations to a system that the system includes a human-computer interface and that a first filter (and in the case of Claim 50, at least one second filter) comprises a presentation via the human-computer interface and means for receiving input (from a human editor). These limitations are not directed to process at all; rather they are directed to components of a system (interface, presentation, and input means). For at least this reason, Claims 50 and 53 are directed to statutory subject matter, and the rejections of these claims should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, with regarding to all of the rejected claims (Claims 3-13, 50, and 53), it is noted that each of these claims depends from at least one claim that has been deemed to contain statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit that if the claims from which these claims depend contain statutory subject matter, and because a dependent claim incorporates the limitations of the claim(s) from which it depends, these claims must contain statutory subject matter.

Finally, Applicants note M.P.E.P. § 2106 (specifically, Part IV: "Determine Whether the Claimed Invention Complies with 35 U.S.C. 101"). In particular, Applicants note that their method (and system) is claimed as having a practical application in the technological arts,

namely, the compilation and accessing of information from a computer network. As such, it is respectfully submitted that all of Applicants' claims fall into this so-called "safe harbor" and are, therefore, statutory.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn. Applicants also note that further arguments may be raised to support the statutory nature of many, if not all, of these claims. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if he would like to discuss the above or further arguments.

At Pages 2-7, the Office Action rejects Claims 1-28, 30-34, 36-41, and 44-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Logan (U.S. Patent No. 6,665,659). At Pages 7-8, Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan in view of Smith, II (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0111847). At Pages 8-9, Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan in view of Kim et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0129014). Finally, at Pages 9-10, Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan in view of Lambert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,629,138). These rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicants note that *none* of the cited references (Logan, Smith, II, Kim et al., or Lambert et al.) discloses or suggests a subject-specific search engine (SSSE). As discussed, e.g., at page 4, lines 8-10 of Applicants' disclosure, a SSSE collects and indexes only pages that are deemed relevant for a specific subject. As discussed, e.g., at page 6, lines 9-12 of Applicants' disclosure, in the case of a profession-oriented SSSE, an SSSE is "a search engine that returns only links to

resources that contain components of the profession's terminology." In contrast, none of the cited references presents such a SSSE.

Logan only determines citations relevant to a subject entered by a user (i.e., in response to a user entering a search); it does not provide "subject-specific" searching, as in the present invention (i.e., where *the search engine* is directed to a specific subject). See, e.g., col. 2, lines 10-14. Smith, II, addresses a method of determining appearance frequency. See, e.g., paragraph [0008]. Lambert et al. is directed to maintaining statistics, on a remote server, relating to data on the remote server. See, e.g., col. 2, lines 29-42. Kim et al. is directed to methods of information retrieval that include page rankings. See, e.g., paragraph [0014].

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 46 in an attempt to clarify this difference from the prior art. In particular, Claim 1 now recites "filtering the contents of each site visited to determine relevancy of content to said subject; and presenting for indexing information on each site deemed relevant by said filtering." Similarly, Claim 46 now recites "a first filter, filtering out sites that are irrelevant to said subject, and permitting only relevant sites to pass; and an indexer indexing the relevant sites." Therefore, each claim now more clearly recites that the claimed "filtering" or "first filter" tests for relevancy to the subject of the SSSE and that the search engine only indexes sites relevant to that subject. As discussed above, none of the cited prior art discloses or suggests such a method or system.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 46, as well as their respective dependent claims (Claims 2-45 and 47-53) are allowable over the cited prior art.

With regard to Kim et al. and its use in rejecting Claim 35, it is noted that the Office Action asserts that Kim et al. "teaches that it is known to assign a word score for that word comprises the step of increasing the word score for each site containing a link to the site if the word appears in close proximity to the link [*sic*]." Applicants assume that the Office Action is trying to say that Kim et al. teaches what is claimed. However, a close look at Kim et al., e.g., at paragraph [0084], which is the only portion of Kim et al. cited in connection with this rejection, reveals no such teaching. Kim et al. does not compute *word* scores at all; Kim et al. appears to compute a *page* weight (i.e., a score for a page). This is completely different and cannot be read on the limitation of Claim 35. Hence, for at least this additional reason, Claim 35 is allowable over the cited prior art.

While Applicants do not necessarily concur with the Office Action's characterizations of the claims and/or the references with regard to other claimed features, Applicants choose not to discuss each such feature. Consequently, the lack of explicit discussion is not to be understood as indicating tacit agreement with such characterizations.

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Appl. No. 10/082,354

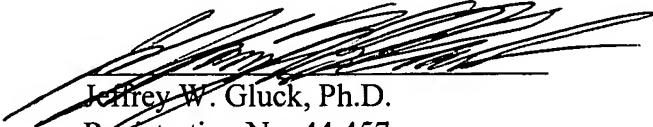
### *Conclusion*

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 28, 2005



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